



**Department of
Environmental Protection
Bureau of Land & Water Quality June 2001**

O&M Newsletter

A monthly newsletter for wastewater discharge licensees, treatment facility operators and associated persons

Upcoming Training Courses

June 20, 2001 in Milo, ME – Fifth Annual Lagoon Day - sponsored by MRWA, (207) 729-6569 - Approved for 5 hours.

Spring Certification Exam Notice

The spring exams were held on Wednesday, May 16 in the usual locations. It usually takes 4-6 weeks for us to get the answer sheets to ABC and get the scores back. We then have to review the scores and print up the letters and new certificates for the operators who get passing grades. Thus, the results probably won't be available until the end of June. Please don't call two weeks after the exam for your results. We won't know and there's not much we can do about it. As soon as we get the scores back from ABC, we'll get the results out to you. Please be patient.

Dick Darling

For Practice

1. Primary Clarifiers remove:
 - a. dissolved solids
 - b. inorganic solids
 - c. settleable solids
 - d. total solids

2. You get a sudden increase of organic material to your treatment plant. What steps should you take to make sure that adequate treatment is maintained?
 - a. Chlorinate the return sludge and the influent
 - b. Decrease the aeration and waste more sludge.
 - c. Increase the return rate and add supernatant.
 - d. Increase the aeration and increase the return rate.
3. In a series circuit, if one unit is burned out or disconnected, the other units will,
 - a. become overloaded
 - b. cease to function
 - c. continue to function
 - d. continue to function until the failed unit is replaced.
4. One type of positive displacement pump is:
 - a. a peristaltic pump.
 - b. a radial flow pump.
 - c. an air lift pump
 - d. an axial flow pump

Dick Darling

EPA DMR QA #21 Study Update

Study # 21 is underway. If you are a licensee that participated last year or if your facility was selected to be a new participant in this year's study, you should have received the **DMR-QA Study 21 Announcement** packet several weeks ago. The QA samples were to be ordered by June 5, 2001. If you did not receive the announcement and/or did not order your samples by June 5, please contact me at 287-7659.

Please notice that in the back of the packet there is a **NPDES Permittee Address Verification Form**. This needs to be completed and returned to John Helm at the address shown on the bottom of the form as soon as possible to verify that you received the announcement information and to insure that your mailing information is correct.

There is no wet testing portion of the study this year, because NIST has not completed the accreditation of these providers.

All labs including the licensee's own lab have been assigned a USEPA Lab Code by the EPA. Sometimes this has yet to be done for new participants. The lab code is usually shown on the address label on the announcement packet sent to licensees. This number looks like an NPDES permit number except it has only 5 figures after the ME rather than seven. The numbers usually do not change from year to year and if you do not find yours in the announcement packet, you can locate it on the copies of the results reports you used last year. This number is important in ordering samples and in reporting your test results. If your lab has not been assigned a lab code number yet, you need to contact Lee Corbin at:

Lee Corbin
USEPA, NERL, Rm. 525
26 W. Martin Luther King Drive
Cincinnati, OH 45268

If you need additional information regarding this study, please contact me.

David Dodge

Answers to For Practice:

1. c Primary clarifiers rely on gravity to separate the heavier, settleable solids from the water.
2. d A higher loading means that you need more bugs to assimilate the organic material and more oxygen for those bugs so you should increase both the return pumping rate and the aeration rate.
3. b In a series circuit, shutting off the flow of electricity to one device shuts off the flow to all.
4. a A positive displacement pump moves the fluid by physically forcing it through a the pump. Of the pumps listed, only the peristaltic pump operates this way.

Electronic 49 Forms and DMRs

The Maine Department of Environmental Protection recently received a grant from the U.S. EPA. We will use the money from this grant to develop a computer program for entry, storage and electronic filing of the MeDEP Form 49 and the USEPA Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR). The program will allow wastewater treatment plant operators to enter their daily operating and monitoring data. The program will perform all the required end-of-month calculation of averages, maximum and minimum values and send the information to us over the Internet.

One of the first steps in developing this system is for us to find out what computer systems you have available to you to use this software package. The software will require a computer that will run Windows™ 95, Windows™ 98, Windows™ ME, Windows™ NT4 or Windows™ 2000 or the new Windows™ XP. This usually means a minimum of a Pentium® 100 Mhz processor (or equivalent), 32 MB or more of RAM and at least 100 MB of free disk space. The computer should have a 3.5" diskette drive (or preferably a CD-ROM Drive) and a 56Kb V.90 modem or other connection to the Internet (Cable modem or DSL). A printer is not required, although it would be good to allow you to keep a "hard" copy of your reports.

Please fill out the questionnaire below and return it to us by July 11, 2001. Thanks in advance for your help.

Name of Wastewater Treatment Facility:

Name of Person Completing the Questionnaire:

Telephone Number: _____ e-mail address: _____

Have Now	Will Have by 12/31/2002	Equipment
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Computer (minimum 100 MHz Pentium, 32 MB RAM, 100 MB Free Disk Space, 3.5" Diskette Drive)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	56 Kb Modem or better
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Connection to the Internet